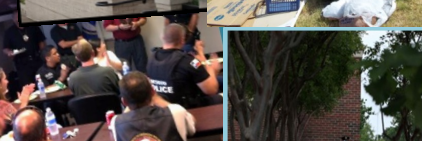
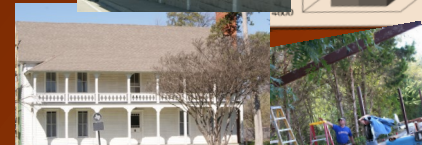
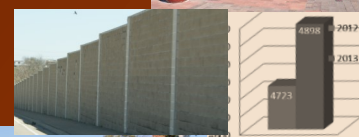


DeSoto Police Department REACHING NEW HEIGHTS 2013 Annual Report



DeSoto Police Department Annual Report 2013

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Vision Statement

“To become the standard for law enforcement excellence”



Mission Statement

“Excellence, one contact at a time”



Message from Police Chief, Joseph Costa

Welcome to the DeSoto Police Department's Annual Report for 2013. We hope that you will enjoy and become informed relative to the overall efforts and activities of the dedicated men and women that make up the entire Department. The DeSoto Police Department realized several changes in the command staff in 2013. In April, Assistant Chief Robert E. Lee was appointed the new Chief of Police in the City of Alvin, Texas. We wish him well and thank him for his years of service to the DeSoto Police Department! Captain Gary Perkins was appointed as our new Assistant Chief of Police and he has stepped into the position with much enthusiasm. Other promotions included Terry Baker to Captain; Teddy May to Lieutenant; Chris Huerta and Dwayne Lyons to Sergeant; and Nick Bristow and Robby Stevenson to Corporal. Linda Sharp migrated over from Human Resources and she has been a valuable addition to our administrative team.

Code Enforcement personnel, traffic officers and Department administration continue to work Saturdays to increase effectiveness and administration of the Department. Our Crime Prevention and Control (CPAC) policing strategy is in full operation and we continue to reap the benefits of our comprehensive initiatives. This proactive type of policing empowered the Captains and Lieutenants to be smarter on crime using all available internal and external resources. Utilizing crime mapping and crime trend analysis reports help officers identify the propensity for criminal activity in certain areas of the City of DeSoto. Using data from those reports, our command staff has developed a proactive strategy to crime.

In 2013 overall crime decreased by two percent (2%). This includes the following decreases:

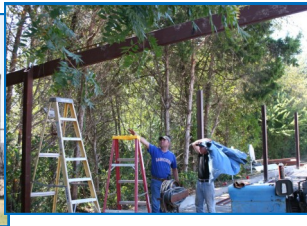
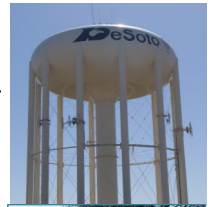
Compared to 2012, burglaries were down by over 23% (145 fewer than in 2012). Burglary of Homes (BOH) and Burglary of Motor Vehicles (BMV) were each down by 26% (115 each). Criminal Mischief down 6.44% (26 incidents). Motor Vehicle Theft was down 34% (45 fewer thefts). These statistics can be viewed in the attached chart titled Yearly Stats Expanded.

With all the above decreases you might think that crime should have gone down even more than 2%. This is true except for the following:

There were 224 more thefts in 2013 as compared to 2012. Walmart alone, which is in District 4, had 101 more reported thefts than in 2012. The city had four homicides in 2013 (three of those involved family violence). There were 20 more robberies in 2013 than in 2012. (Some of those were of personal mobile phones.)

Our overall response times in 2013 were down to under 6 minutes. (Our 2014 goal is under 5 minutes.) We responded to 120,816 total number of calls for service in 2013 as compared to 97,000 calls for service in 2012. Officers responded to a total of 568 traffic accidents in 2013 (534 crashes were investigated in 2012).

All sworn officer vacancies were filled in 2013 and new employees were added to Code Enforcement, the Jail and Animal Control. Shirley Dyson was hired as our new full-time Quartermaster.



Our Jail processed 6951 inmates last fiscal year (Oct. 2012-Sept. 2013) as compared to 6229 inmates in fiscal 2011-2012. From January through December of 2013, there were 273 medical calls at the jail. (There were 191 medical calls in 2012).

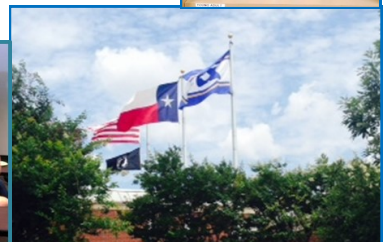
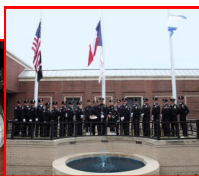
We continue to work closely with our partners in the community, other city Departments including Parks and Recreation and DISD, as well as our volunteer groups such as DeSoto Police and Clergy (DPAC), DeSoto Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (DCPAAA) and Citizens on Patrol (COP) as we share information through outreach and education. As stated in 2012, our ultimate goal is to work together to lower crime and make DeSoto one of the safest cities in Texas, if not the United States.

We had great success in our investigations and solvability rates. All four homicides were solved and arrests were made in three of the four cases. A warrant has been issued for the fourth murder suspect and we will continue to work with other Law Enforcement Departments to capture that subject. The following chart, labeled Robberies and Burglaries, demonstrates our investigative clearance rates concerning burglaries and robberies. We accomplished these results concerning these crimes for several reasons. The diligence and tenacity of our Criminal Investigators as well as the fact that our patrol officers are more visible in all neighborhoods has availed us the opportunity to make more in-progress burglary arrests and capture robbery suspects soon after a crime has been committed. Our comprehensive efforts have proven to continue to deter crime and criminal activity as proven by the decreasing property crimes. DeSoto Police Officers work hard to be vigilant and respond quickly to calls for service!!

Thanks to all those and others that assist us each day and help us keep the City of DeSoto safe and secure!

Robberies and Burglaries

	Total	Assigned	Cleared by Arrest	Cleared by Exception	Pending Warrant	Unfounded	Total Cleared
Aggravated Robbery/ Robbery	66	61	16	10	4	2	32
Burglary of a Habitat	325	179	17	4	3	1	25
Burglary of a Business	162	55	6	1	1	0	8
Burglary of a Vehicle	320	96	10	3	2	2	17
Total	873	391	49	18	10	5	82



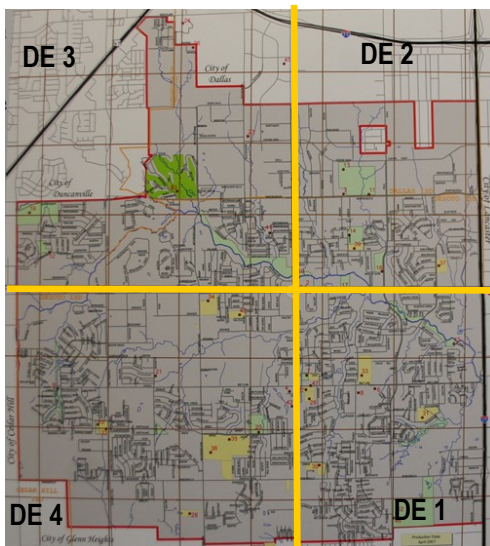
YEARLY STATS EXPANDED

OVERALL

19% Decrease from 2012 to 2013

BEAT	Begin Date	End Date			
	01/01/2012	12/31/2012			
	DE1	DE2	DE3	DE4	TOTALS
◆ BMV	109	143	87	91	430
◆ BURG BLDG	47	48	18	72	185
◆ BURG HAB	147	103	69	119	438
◆ BURG HAB ASLT	9	2	1	2	14
◆ BURG HAB SEX OFF	0	1	0	0	1
◆ CRIM MISCHIEF	110	86	90	118	404
◆ ROBBERY	8	16	11	8	43
◆ UUMV	31	48	26	26	131
TOTALS	461	447	302	436	1646

BEAT	Begin Date	End Date			
	01/01/2013	12/31/2013			
	DE1	DE2	DE3	DE4	TOTALS
◆ BMV	81	118	56	60	315
◆ BURG BLDG	41	27	24	71	163
◆ BURG HAB	101	70	58	91	320
◆ BURG HAB ASLT	3	2	2	4	11
◆ BURG HAB SEX OFF	0	0	0	0	0
◆ CRIM MISCHIEF	138	94	49	97	378
◆ ROBBERY	19	18	7	19	63
◆ UUMV	32	25	21	8	86
TOTALS	415	354	217	350	1336



City Map of Patrol Districts

Gary Perkins, Assistant Chief of Police

Assistant Chief Perkins oversees the direct supervision of the daily operation of the Police Department which includes the Patrol Division, Support Services Division, Code Enforcement & Animal Control and the DeSoto Regional Jail. The Police Department is comprised of 70 sworn officers and 29 civilian personnel full time and we provide police services 24 hours a day, seven days a week and serve a population of 49,500 residents in an area of 22 square miles. In 2013 we answered 120,816 calls for service.



The Department's Patrol Lieutenants have individual responsibility for single Patrol Districts within the city and they regularly utilize data and mapping strategies to develop plans for proactive responses. During 2013 the DeSoto Police Department continued to maintain our partnerships with our community groups and citizen volunteers.

Our reduction in crime is a direct result of our overall comprehensive approach to crime. Our strategy is more proactive and results oriented which allows our officers to be more responsive and better equipped. We have implemented more use of technology and various data programs such as crime mapping and crime trends in an effort to better predict areas of concern.

DeSoto officers spend more time in their assigned neighborhoods where they are quicker to respond to calls for service and more visible to deter crime. In 2013, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) and Support Services realized an increase in cases assigned to investigate as well as requests for open records. Code Enforcement and Animal Control continue to be attentive to the city regulations and needs of the community. Both units continue to keep the city neat, clean, safe and appealing to visitors and residents alike.

The Tri -Cities Regional Jail saw an increase in staff last year as well as a new uniform and shoulder patch design. We continue to make improvements to the jail facility and overall operation to provide effective and efficient care, custody and control of all arrestees and persons in custody. In 2013 the entire DeSoto Police Department reached a new height in providing top quality police services and law enforcement to keep the citizens of DeSoto safe and secure. We will continue our efforts into 2014 and beyond.



ACCREDITATION

The DeSoto Police Department is accredited through The Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation (CALEA). The Department has been continuously accredited since 1993, making it one of the longest accredited agencies in the State of Texas. Due to the efforts of the entire Department we had an outstanding on-site accreditation visit in December 2012. We received our Seventh Award for Advanced Meritorious Accreditation in March of 2013.

Professional Standards

The Professional Standards Division is composed of the Internal Affairs and Training Sections. The division is staffed by an Administrative Sergeant who is also the Department's Training Coordinator.

Internal Affairs

The purpose of the Internal Affairs process is to ensure the integrity of the Police Department and its officers. Complaints are investigated objectively and fairly while preserving the right of all those involved. Internal Affairs objectives include protection of the public, protection of the Department, protection of the employee, removal of unfit personnel, and correction of procedural problems. In 2013, the Professional Standards Division investigated six (6) Internal Affairs Reviews and 102 Administrative Reviews. As a result, the Professional Standards Division recorded 108 total reviews.

Internal Affairs Reviews

<u>Type of Review</u>	<u>No. of Reviews</u>	<u>Review/No Action</u>	<u>Action</u>
Family Violence Class C	1		1 Not Sustained
Interference w/Investigation	1		1 Not Sustained
False Report	1	1 Review no Action	
Racial Profiling	1	1 Review no Action	
Use of Force Firearm	2	2 Review no Action (Cleared by Grand Jury)	

Administrative Reviews

<u>Type of Review</u>	<u>No. of Reviews</u>	<u>Review/No Action</u>	<u>Action</u>
Pursuits	27	25 Review no Action	2 Sustained
Accidents	3	3 Review no Action	
Damage To Property	29	18 Review no Action	11 Sustained
Lost Property	5	2 Review no Action	3 Sustained
Unprofessional Conduct	1		1 Sustained
Injury	4	4 Review no Action	
Fit for Duty	1		1 Not Sustained
Use of Force OC Spray	3	3 Review no Action	
Use of Force Hands On	8	8 Review no Action	
Use of Force Taser	14	14 Review no Action	
Use of Force Pepper Ball	1	1 Review no Action	
Policy Violation	6		5 Sustained 1 Not Sustained

Training

The numerous aspects and complexity of law enforcement have made it necessary to have an exceptional training program not only in the areas of state mandates but in all areas including specialized and technical areas of police work. The DeSoto Police Department excels in this area offering top-notch training.

The purpose of the Training Coordinator is to maintain responsibility for conducting and coordinating Department training including scheduling and documenting the ongoing training of personnel and to locate and evaluate all types of training that will be offered and requested. The coordinator acts as a liaison between the Department and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), the state licensing agency for law enforcement training standards.

The DeSoto Police Department's training room features state-of-the-art multimedia equipment. Training conducted at the Department is utilized not only by DeSoto officers, but is frequently attended by members of other Police Departments. The Department instructs officers in a wide range of subjects to include defensive tactics, firearms proficiency, crime scene investigations, and cultural diversity. In 2013, the DeSoto Police Department held 33 training courses, contracted with 12 agencies to provide training to their officers, and provided more than 3,041 training hours internally to DeSoto officers. Attendance of these courses (and specifically the Legal Update) contributes to officers meeting the state mandated 40 hours of training bi-annually (due Aug 2015). The courses held and outside agencies served include the following:

Courses

Arrest, Search & Seizure	Mental Health Officer	Basic Instructor
Crisis Intervention	Cultural Diversity	Human Trafficking
Child Abuse	Crime Scene	Use of Force
Legal Update	Firearms	Defensive Tactics

Agencies Served

Methodist Hospital District	Dallas County Hospital District	Northlake Police Department
Lancaster Police Department	Red Oak Police Department	Glenn Heights Police Department
Midlothian Police Department	Hutchins Police Department	Wilmer Police Department
Rowlett Police Department	Farmersville Police Department	Cockrell Hill Police Department

Police Department Library



During the past year, a library was created for use by any Police Department employee. The Library is home to many different types of books and resource materials. Categories include criminal justice, law, travel, computer aids, cookbooks and a variety of novels. Sandra Blair was appointed as the Department Librarian.

The most unique feature is the "Kids Corner" where books are age appropriate from infancy – 15! The selections include nursery rhymes, short stories, adventure series and a small collection of stuffed animals for the younger children. The Library is open 24 hours a day seven days a week. The Library operates on the honor system. Donations of books and toys make the Library possible.



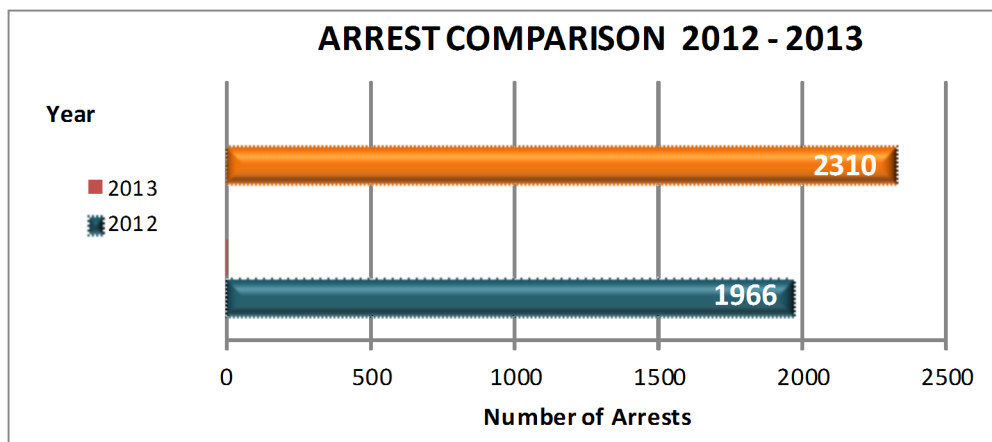
Patrol Services

Terry Baker, Captain

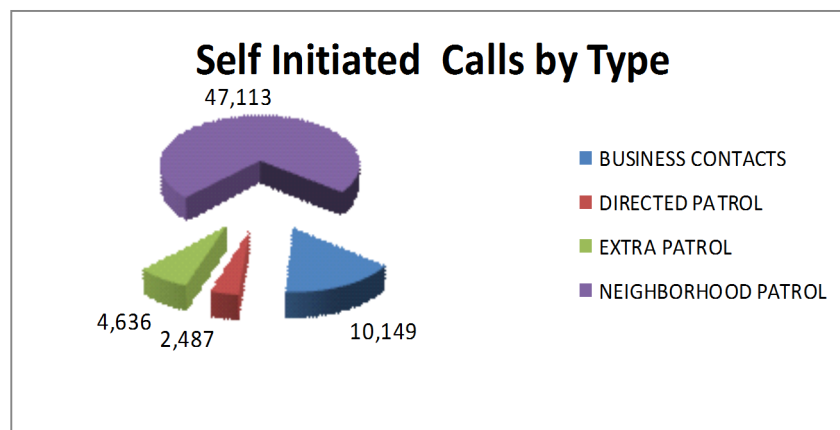
The Patrol Services Division is the largest division of the DeSoto Police Department and is comprised of 61 uniformed, highly visible representatives of the Department. The Patrol Services Division includes Patrol Officers, Traffic Officers, Reserve Officers, Municipal Court Bailiff, and Public Service Officers.

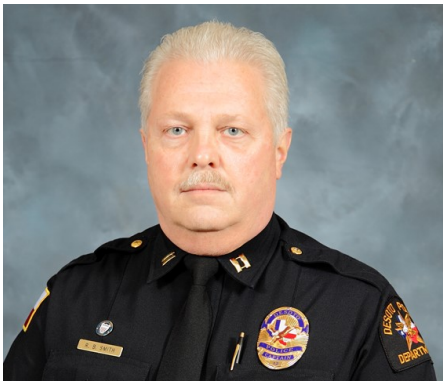
The purpose of the Patrol Services Division is to provide public safety services and proactive crime prevention techniques as well as respond to calls for service. In 2013, the Patrol Services Division recorded 120,816 calls for service, an increase of 7758 over 2012.

There was an increase in the number of offense reports taken in 2013 compared to 2012. We also had an increase of 344 total adult arrests in 2013 compared to 2012.



In 2013, officers responded to numerous burglaries in progress calls from businesses and residences, where officers were able to apprehend and arrest subjects in the commission of these crimes. These arrests were possible due to the officers quick response to the location. DeSoto Patrol Officers conducted 64,385 self-initiated calls in 2013, an increase of over 8000 from 2012. That number includes business contacts, directed patrols, extra patrols and neighborhood patrols.



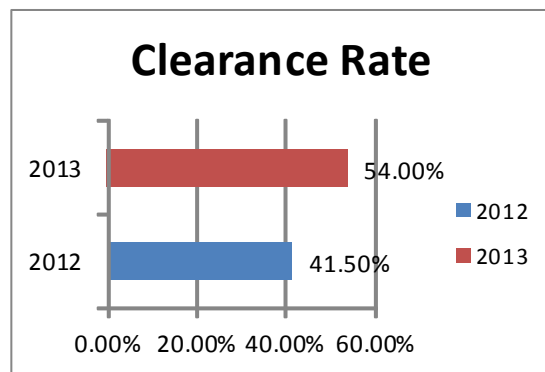
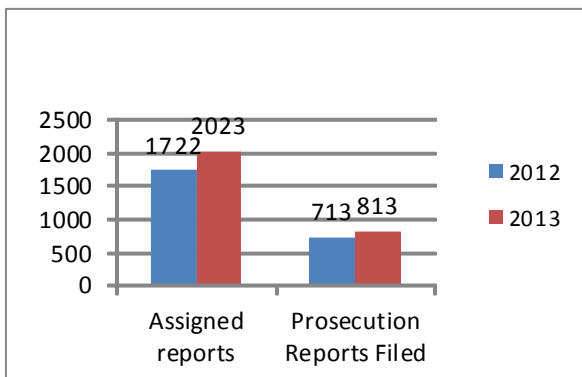


CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Ron Smith, Captain

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) is responsible for conducting complete and thorough investigations of criminal offenses, preparation and filing of criminal cases with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office for prosecution. CID is commanded by Captain Ron Smith and supported by Sr. Secretary Jennifer Merimon. CID includes one lieutenant, one sergeant and six detectives: five assigned to adult crimes and one detective that investigates juvenile related crimes. A Public Service Officer handles minor misdemeanor offenses, sex offender registration, preparation and filing of arrest cases.

In 2013 the Criminal Investigations Division investigated 2023 cases with a 54% clearance rate which included four murders. The Division prepared 813 prosecution reports to be filed with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office.



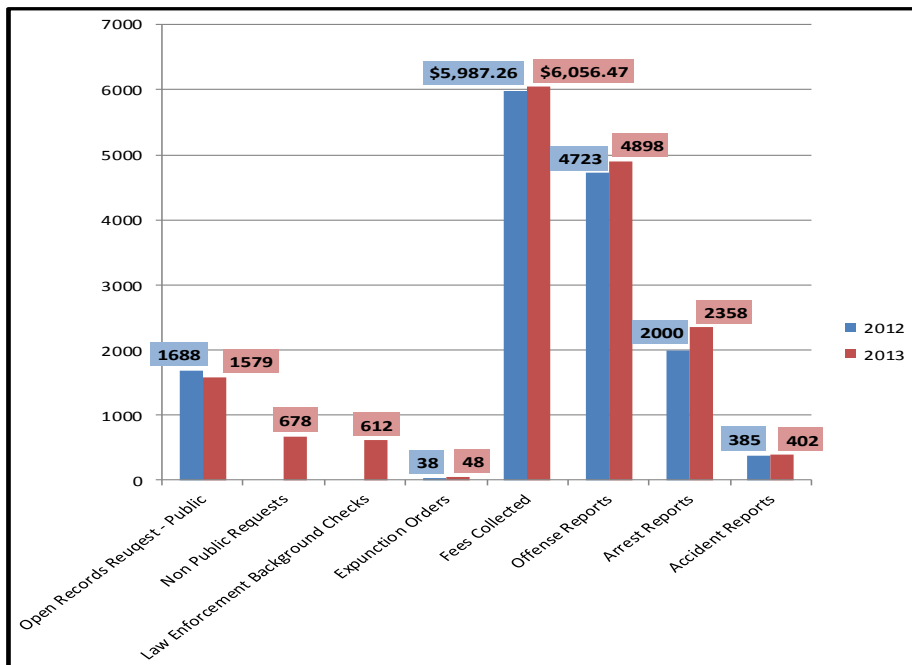
Each detective is assigned to a specific area of law. Some detectives are assigned to crimes against persons encompassing assaults, robberies, and most sex related offenses. Other detectives are assigned to property crimes which include theft, forgery and burglary. The Juvenile Detective investigates crimes that are perpetrated by juvenile offenders and investigates crimes against children, to include child victimization. Major crimes such as homicide are handled by the entire division.

RECORDS DIVISION

The Records Division is responsible for entry, filing and maintaining all reports generated by the Police Department. The division also answers all Open Records requests and submits the NCIC/TCIC Validation Report as well as the Uniform Crime Report, which details FBI crime statistics for DeSoto. The division answered approximately 1,579 open records requests, 612 requests from city, county, state and federal agencies, collected \$6,056.47 in fees, completed 612 law enforcement background checks and completed 48 Expunction Orders.

Records Division Comparison Report (2012/2013)

	2012	2013
Open Records Request - Public	1688	1579
Non Public Requests *		678
Law Enforcement Background Checks *		612
Expunction Orders	38	48
Fees Collected	\$5,987.26	\$6,056.47
Offense Reports	4723	4898
Arrest Reports	2000	2358
Accident Reports	385	402
*The Number of Non Public Requests and number of Background Checks is unknown for the year 2012		



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SROs)



Each new school year presents challenges for both the Police Department and the School District. This past year the DeSoto Independent School District enjoyed a safe environment in the schools for students and faculty. We as a Police Department work hard behind the scenes to help ensure continued safe and pleasant environment. There were few criminal issues on campus due to the efforts of the School Resource Officers. Creating calm in the schools does not just happen, there are numerous checks and balances that are made daily to ensure a healthy and safe learning environment.

This past year there were several new processes that contributed to a smooth transition for the school year. The first of these was creating and implementing new random wand security checks. This system is used to locate weapon offenders on campus and deter those who might bring weapons on campus. A new complaint process was created and has been successful with managing different types of issues which streamline necessary information for quicker information and solutions. Another new security system in our schools this past year was a Lock Down Drill Evaluation System which is currently in place and will dramatically aid in the safety of all students and faculty should there be an emergency.

For police and school security, training is the most important part of creating and maintaining a place of safety. In a new effort the DeSoto Police and the DeSoto Independent School District Security Personnel trained together to create a greater understanding of the role each has to ensure that the safety of all is protected. In 2014, plans have been implemented for increased joint training with the DeSoto Police Department and the DeSoto Independent School District Security personnel. This is a first and will prove to be a valuable tool for both organizations.

The School Resource Officers provide a litany of assistance, programs, safety training, investigations and presence each year. School Resource Officers conduct an annual Gang Resistance Education and Training Program (G.R.E.A.T.) Summer Program that builds on the school-based curriculum taught by School Resource Officers during the school year by offering students an opportunity to enhance their social skills, giving them alternatives to gang involvement, and adding structure to their summer months. The School Resource Officer Program helps accomplish the DeSoto Police Department's community policing goals such as crime prevention, gang intervention, education and enforcement. Our SROs are hardworking police officers who care about the success of the children in our community.

CHIEF FOR A DAY



DeSoto High School Senior Sam Diaz was selected to serve as DeSoto Police Chief for a day. Over 300 Criminal Justice and JROTC students were eligible to apply for this honor. Sam was an honor student and ranked number 10 in the 2013 graduating class. Sam will pursue a college degree with an emphasis in criminal justice. Chief for a Day Diaz shadowed Police Chief Joseph Costa and attended all planning sessions, meetings, spent time riding in patrol and led a Department briefing during a working lunch.

Field Training (FTO)

The DeSoto Police Department Field Training Program is charged with training newly appointed personnel as competent police officers. The officer's life, the lives of their fellow officers and citizens may depend on skills developed during the training phase. Their effectiveness as police officers, the reputation of the DeSoto Police Department as well as the City of DeSoto, are heavily dependent upon training imparted to recruits.

The Field Training Team is currently made up of the four patrol shift corporals who provide first line supervision to eight Field Training Officers on their respective shifts. The unit is coordinated by a patrol lieutenant. Each recruit will spend six weeks with three different Field Training Officers for a minimum of 18 weeks of field training. Upon successful completion, the recruit will advance into a two week "Ghost Phase." During the "Ghost Phase" the recruit will ride with the first phase F.T.O. who will observe and report the recruit's readiness for duty as a solo officer. Remedial training is available throughout the field training process to address any problem areas that may be identified. During 2012 there were 4 recruits in field training compared to 7 plus 1 reserve officer in 2013.

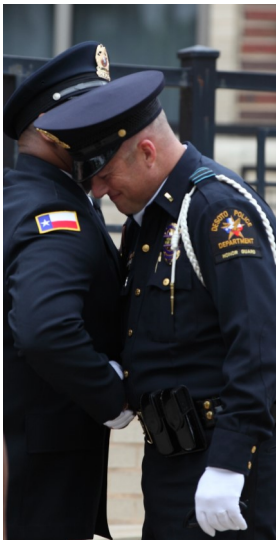


Police Evidence and Property

Evidence and property that is part of a crime or may be part of a crime, or has been seized or abandoned must be kept for various periods of time. In many cases there are thousands of items that must be catalogued for identification and must be maintained in a safe and secure place. In DeSoto there are secure areas of the Police Department in which this type of evidence is kept. The state laws govern the accountability of evidence and property and also the release and or destruction of property held for criminal cases.

DeSoto Police Department 2013 Honor Guard

The DeSoto Police Department Honor Guard is an all-volunteer unit consisting of 19 officers who are dedicated to honoring the memory and serving the families of fallen law enforcement officers. The Honor Guard has a reputation regionally and is regularly called upon to perform various ceremonial functions at funerals and civic events across North Central Texas. Honor Guard duties include Color Guard, Flag Team, Firing Party and Casket Detail (Guard, Pall-Bearers and Flag Fold). The DeSoto Police Department Honor Guard hosts an annual Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony in front of the DeSoto Police Department during National Police Memorial Week each May. The Team also travels to Austin each May that the Texas Legislature is in session and participates in the Texas Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony held on the steps of our State Capitol.

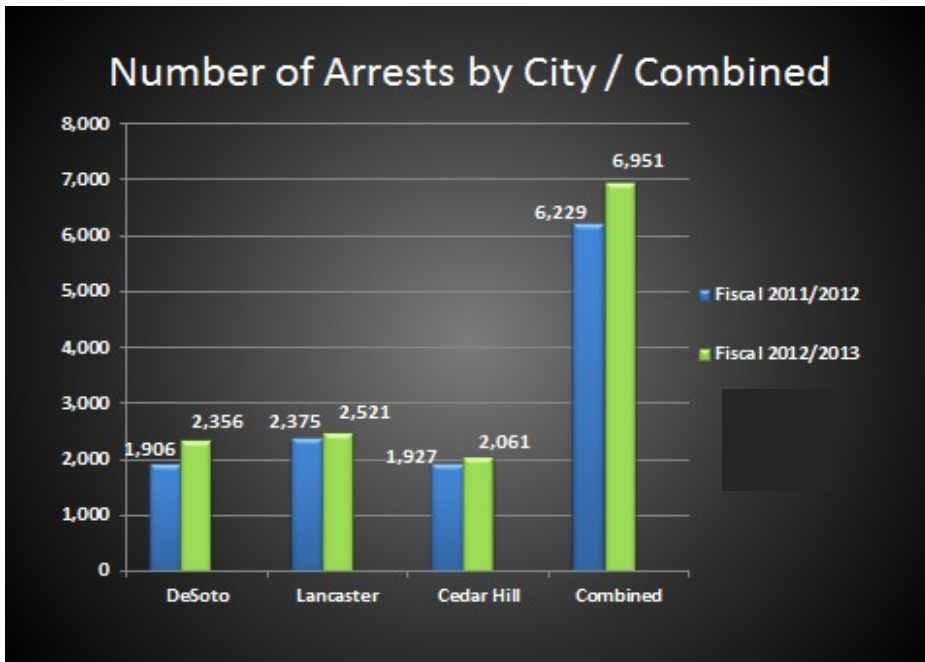


Tri-City Jail

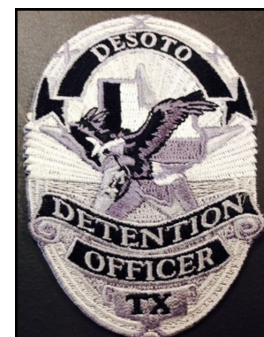


The Jail operates with the purpose of providing a safe and secure environment for the housing of prisoners and operates with a three-way partnership with the cities of DeSoto, Lancaster and Cedar Hill. This past year we added 2 shift Supervisors by promoting two employees, Wesley Breedlove to evening shift Supervisor and Carl Edmison to night shift Supervisor. A full time Customer Service Representative position was added and is filled by Carolyn Cantrell.

The detention officers in 2013 were issued new uniforms, which included a new uniform patch and badge.



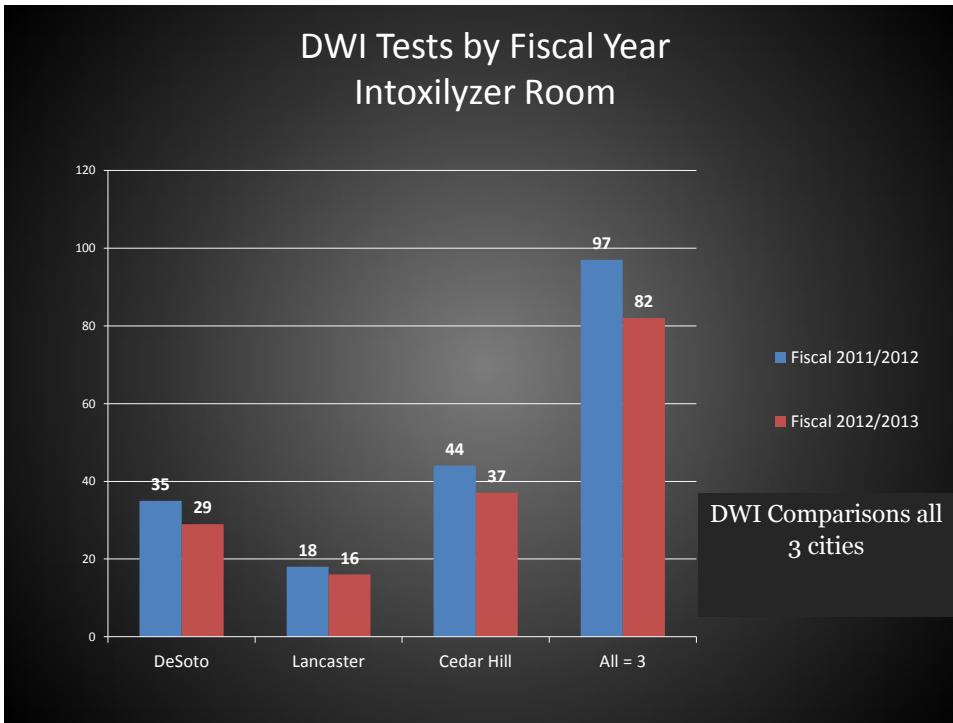
Shoulder Patch



Badge Patch

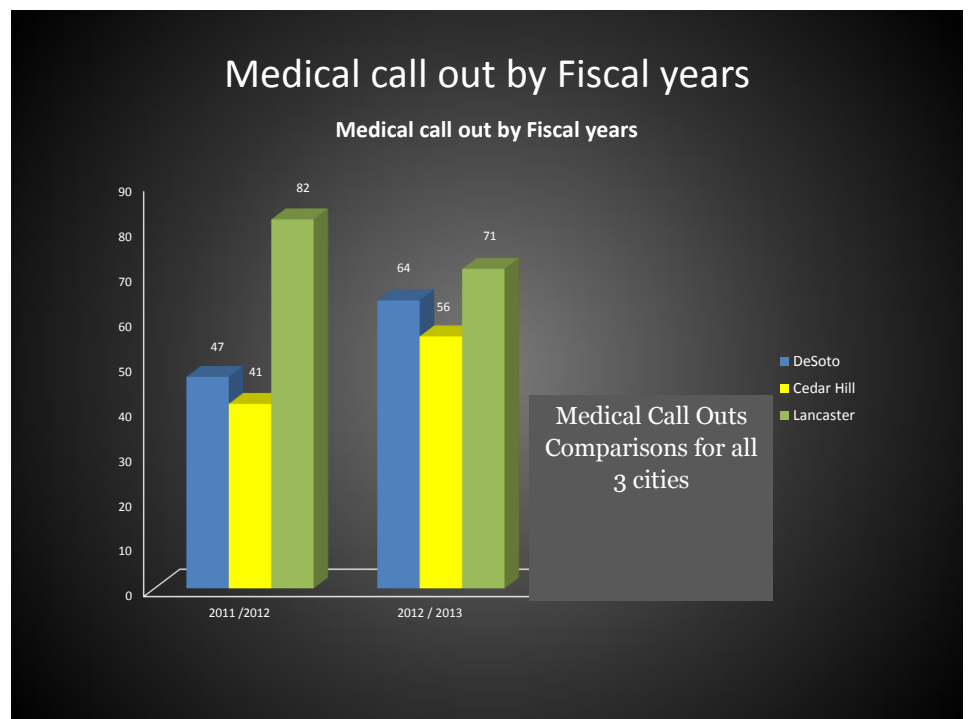
The Jail can house up to 55 inmates at any given time. In 2013 the Jail processed 6,951 inmates. Persons being detained in Jail are charged with offenses ranging from a class C misdemeanor arrest charge up to a felony Capitol Murder.

In October 2013 DeSoto started transporting prisoners with County Court level criminal charges to the Dallas County Jail facility. A total of 363 inmates were transported.



During the past fiscal year the DeSoto Jail staff performed 82 DWI Intoxilyzer tests at the Jail. If one was to compare 2013 to 2012 by looking at the test numbers, it appears as though DWI arrests were down in 2013 from the previous year, but the fact is DWI arrests were actually up. Police Officers are now more frequently requesting Blood Draw warrants and this task is performed at a local hospital.

This past year medical attention was requested 191 times for prisoners held in our Jail. A small percentage needed to be transported to a hospital. Some examples of medical call-outs would be for high blood pressure, diabetes, pregnancy and seizures.



CODE SERVICES

CODE ENFORCEMENT

The mission of the Code Services Division is to enforce the codes of the city in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community; and, where violations occur, to work with our citizens to achieve compliance through an efficient and fair process. There are two full time Code Officers working Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and one part time Code Officer working evenings, Monday - Thursday, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The importance of Code Services is to protect our citizens by creating a safe and clean city. Because of the code enforcement, the City of DeSoto is able to maintain and increase property values which are incremental in the continued positive development of our city.

In 2013, Code Services handled 7,596 issues ranging from high weeds and grass, brush, oversized vehicles, junk vehicles, overgrown trees, broken and unsafe fences, parking on unimproved surfaces, trash in yards, house numbers, illegal businesses, illegal signs, public right of way, substandard structures, unsecured structures and stagnate and dense water in swimming pools.

Code Enforcement Report with Historical Comparisons					
October 1, 2012 thru September 30, 2013					
All Officers					
Code Violation Topic	FY 2012/13		FY 2011/12		
	O	C	O	C	
Construction without Permit	1	1	0	0	
Health Inspection	1	1	0	0	
High Grass and Weeds	3128	3103	3781	3740	
House Numbers	187	176	238	236	
Illegal Business	16	16	8	8	
Illegal Parking	532	516	290	280	
Illegal Signs	939	937	33	30	
Inoperable Vehicles	387	378	231	231	
Other	96	88	49	20	
Oversize Vehicle	31	27	20	20	
Pool Inspection	1	1	0	0	
Public Right of Way	15	15	15	15	
RV I Truck Parking	2	2	8	8	
Substandard Structure	47	40	4	4	
Swimming Pool	65	61	58	54	
Trash and Debris	595	573	359	352	
Trees and Landscaping	876	814	269	272	
Unsecured Structure	15	15	9	10	
Zoning	662	653	537	528	
Totals	7596	7417	5909	5808	
O—Open Cases C—Closed Cases					

. Code Cont.



ANIMAL CONTROL

The mission of the Animal Control Division is to deliver effective, courteous, and responsive animal care and control services to the residents of DeSoto. Animal Control accomplishes their goals of protecting public safety and ensuring animal welfare through compassionate, responsive, professional enforcement of the laws and public policy. The staff of Animal Control include two full time Officers and one part time officer who are compassionate employees and are also concerned with the containment of diseases including Rabies and many other Zoonotic diseases that contribute to or violate City, State and Federal Laws. Animal Control Staff also assists in public awareness and education programs that include information on the types of vaccination requirements, neglected and abused animals, education on unsanitary conditions, stray and or abandoned animals, ownership limitation requirements, wildlife and livestock issues. The Animal Control Officers also investigate animal bites.

In 2013, Animal Control responded to 6,470 calls consisting of abandoned/neglected animal, animal bite, animal nuisance, barking/noise, deceased animal, injured animal, loose/stray animal, rabies vaccinations, snake sighting, too many animals, trap service and vicious animal.

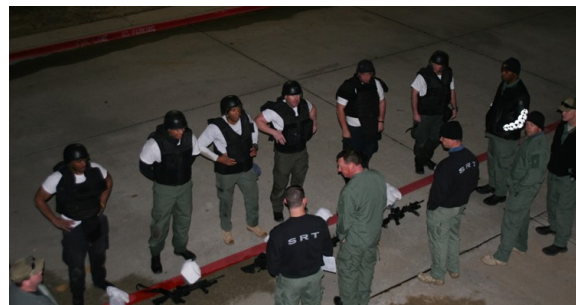


Southern Regional Response Group Special Response Team (SRRG-SRT)

Law enforcement agencies in southern Dallas and northern Ellis counties established the Southern Regional Response Group (SRRG) in order to further develop mutual aid strategies within the immediate region. Currently, DeSoto, Lancaster, Midlothian, Glenn Heights, Ovilla, Cedar Hill, Duncanville, Red Oak, Seagoville, and Highland Park are participating agencies. SRRG-SRT has equipment that will be an asset to the team.

We have two AVATAR Robots, which allows operators to view and record inside a structure, minimizing the risk of officers being injured. We have also purchased 17 HD helmet cameras, which attach to the new load bearing lightweight ballistic helmets. These helmets are a huge upgrade from the old style helmets. We acquired two (2) side by side panel heavy ballistic shields that can be combined to create a portable bunker for perimeter elements that is rifle rated. We have added a total of eight (8) helmet mounted night vision optics for the emergency assault team. We have recently put the armored Peacekeeper back in-service and it is ready for operations.

Research found that there was a genuine lack of tactical capacity within the region and that most local Special Weapons and Tactical teams (SWAT) had severely limited staff, were underfunded, trained sporadically, and had very limited standards for selection, training and retention of tactical personnel.



Shortly thereafter, SRRG established a SWAT focus group that began developing the framework for the SRRG Special Response Team (SRT).

It is currently one of the largest regional tactical programs in the state and has been operational since spring of 2009. SRRG has received State Homeland Security grant funding through the North Central Texas Council of Governments which helped with the development of the SRT by purchasing the initial necessary equipment. SRRG continues to seek additional grant funding which will help improve the SRT capabilities and additional equipment needs.

For the year 2013 SRRG-SRT responded to 13 high risk calls for service, ranging from warrant service to hostage rescue. SRT has responded to almost all member agencies to support their Department needs during high risk events.

The SRRG-SRT has 23 operators, six negotiators and one commander.

Crisis Negotiator Team

The purpose of the Crisis Negotiator Team is to assist the Department in response to critical incidents. The DeSoto Police Department participates in a multi city effort for managing emergency situations. The Southern Regional Response Group (SRRG) consists of three (3) parts, the tactical unit is the Special Response Team, Hostage Negotiators are referred to as the Crisis Negotiation Team and the third part of the group is the Tactical Medical Team. The Crisis Negotiation Team consists of officers that are highly trained in crisis intervention and crisis negotiations. The goal of the crisis negotiators is to bring a crisis situation to a non-violent end. Officers assigned to the Crisis Negotiator Team / SRRG have regular police officer duties when not responding to an emergency situation. The negotiators have added a new upgraded negotiations phone valued at \$27,000.00.

During 2013, DeSoto Police Department responded to 13 types of crisis situations as a member of SRRG.



Department Awards 2013

The DeSoto Police Department has many hard working and dedicated employees which include support staff, civilian personnel as well as police officers. These employees take pride in their work and strive to become the best at their job. Each year the DeSoto Police Department recognizes the numerous accomplishments made by individuals and also those that include larger work groups. In 2013, the DeSoto Police Department honored several individuals and groups for their outstanding service to the citizens of DeSoto.

August 7, 2013, several officers were recognized for actions taken during a deadly incident within our city. Sgt. Ryan Jesionek was awarded a **Meritorious Conduct Bar** for his selfless acts of courage and at a great risk to personal safety, he led his shift with exemplary courage to rescue innocent persons and arrest a dangerous criminal. Sgt. Christopher Huerta, Officer Amanda Jay, Officer Kendall McGill and Officer Preston Hammel were honored with a **Commendation Bar** for their actions during the same incident. These officers demonstrated great courage in entering a dangerous situation to rescue innocent persons and arrest a dangerous criminal.



During the week of October 13, 2013, the DeSoto Police Department investigated a Double Aggravated Assault and a Capital Murder which were all committed within a short period of time. Investigators and support staff worked tirelessly for days without rest to prepare successful multiple cases for prosecution. The following employees received the Commendation Bar for their actions during that week. Capt. Terry Baker, Lt. Teddy May, Lt. Brian Windham, Sgt. Len Chadwick, Cpl. Melissa Franks, Det. Andrew Wood, Det. David Byerly, Det. Erin Blust, Det. Keith Jones, Det. Lorenzo Garza, Det. Roderick Tasby, Det. William McGraw, School Resource Officer Jermaine Brumfield, and Civilian Personnel Jenifer Humbert and Jennifer Miller. Other award recipients include:



Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Lyn Yzaguirre.

Civilian of the Year was awarded to Shirley Dyson.

Reserve Officer of the Year was awarded to Officer Brett Evans.

Detention Officer of the Year was awarded to Wesley Breedlove.

Supervisor of the Year was awarded to Cpl. Melissa Franks.

Rookie Officer of the Year was awarded to Officer Amanda Jay.

Officer of the Year was awarded to Detective Erin Blust.



The Volunteer Memorial was presented to the Police Department by Officer Cindy Tyndall and Corporal Melissa Franks.

Chief Costa presented the "Soaring for Excellence Award", which is awarded to an individual or team that delivered superior performance throughout the year. This year, the staff of the Tri-City Jail was awarded this unique honor. The award is on display at the Police Department.



Civilian of the Year



Rookie of the Year



Officer of the Year



Supervisor of the Year

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Public Information Officer (PIO) has a unique position within the Department. This officer is the person(s) that have been specifically trained and authorized by the Chief of Police to speak to the media for the Department. The purpose of having a spokesperson designated is to ensure consistency and accuracy of information that is decimated to the public. Some of the duties include writing speeches, press releases, letters and help with various events. Their main task is to provide the public with information in regard to neighborhood safety, new laws, police reports and other events that may occur in the community. Tasks may vary widely for a public information officer.

The Pubic Information Section is comprised of a Sergeant, Corporal and three officers.

Police Reserve Police Officers



The DeSoto Police Reserve Program is a unit of dedicated men and women committed to making DeSoto a better place to live and work while continuing their full time careers. These Reserve Officers go through a Police Academy and become fully certified peace officers before applying to the program. The Police Reserves fall under the same hiring and training standards as our full time officers. The personal rewards are well worth the effort and commitment made by these volunteers to the Reserve Program.

The program currently consists of 13 Reserve Officers serving in such capacities as patrol, criminal investigations, jail and transports, court bailiff, equipment management as well as assisting in hiring and backgrounds. The Reserve Officers worked several special events during the year to include, 5K Run, Homecoming Parade, Football games and the annual Christmas parade. The Reserve Officers worked a total of 4708 hours during the year of 2013, with 500 hours being volunteer hours.

Reserve Officers were utilized several times this past year to assist patrol due to major incidents such as shootings. The Reserve Officer Program is commanded by Captain Baker of the Patrol Division and Reserve Commander Gene Yates.



Community Programs



Community Programs

Officer Cindy Tyndall's duties include serving as the Community Liaison Officer for the DeSoto Police Department. Officer Tyndall has been with the Department since 1994. Her duties include educating the public on lessening their chances of being victimized by assisting them in establishing Crime Watch groups in their neighborhood. She also attends regular Homeowner's Association meetings to deliver and discuss crime statistics and "target hardening" techniques for the citizens. She provides personal safety training for adults and families. Each spring the City of DeSoto's senior citizens are treated to an annual health and safety symposium. The program consists of free health screening and up-to date crime prevention information and serves over 200 attendees.

Citizen Police Academy (CPA)

The Citizen Police Academy is a 10 week interactive class designed for those who live or work in DeSoto. In October 2013, DeSoto CPA class 41 graduated 20 students.



The

DeSoto Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association

The DeSoto Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association (DCPAAA) was formed to promote communication and create partnerships between the DeSoto Police Department and citizens within the community. Alumni members help with special events, education and fund raising for items not covered in the budget but are still considered Departmental needs. Members assist at the front desk in the Police Department, go on ride-a-longs, provide support to the Department and city sponsored events and assist people in their community.

DCPAAA operates under the umbrella of the DeSoto Police Department. Graduates of the Citizen Police Academy formed the Association to provide support for the DeSoto Police Department. Over the years the organization has grown and has become a very important resource for the Police Department and the community of DeSoto.

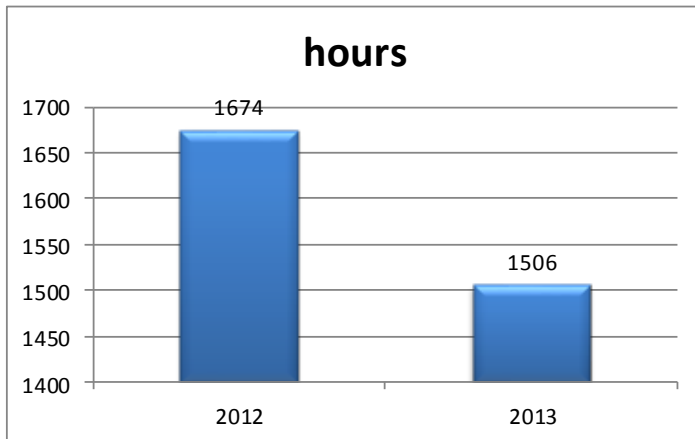


In 2013, DCPAAA members provided more than 4,300 volunteer hours assisting the Police Department at a value of more than \$93,000 to the citizens of DeSoto.

CITIZENS ON PATROL (COP)

The Citizens On Patrol program consists of a group of active residents that have chosen to make a difference in their community through volunteering at the Police Department. The group is twenty plus strong and growing. These citizens come from all walks of life and after attending training, begin patrolling the neighborhoods of the city as an extension of the Department.

The COP's work as extra eyes and ears for the officers on the street and are active in assisting code enforcement in identifying issues in the city that need attention such as high weeds, illegally parked vehicles and fence repair. In addition, the COP's run the graffiti abatement program and work toward making the City of DeSoto a clean community in which to live. In 2013, the COP's worked over 1500 hours at a value of over \$30,000.



DESOTO POLICE AND CLERGY (DPAC)

A coalition was formed in 2010, between the DeSoto Police and the Ministers who live in DeSoto or serve citizens in our community. DeSoto Police and Clergy, DPAC, was formed to help our community address the root causes of violence in the community.

DeSoto Police and Clergy (DPAC) partner with the Police Department as a resource for the community. DPAC provides tools to help area youth achieve great things, and strengthen and assist families in preventing negative outcomes that can hinder their well-being. Monthly meetings are held to strategize on how to address important topics that affect our community. This collaboration of numerous churches and the Police Department reflects a community working together to solve issues of concern. In 2013, DPAC celebrated three years of service to the City of DeSoto.





Special Thanks

Photographers: Mary Johnson, S.E. Johnson, Sgt. H. Penwarden,

To the entire DeSoto Police Department employees and to

all that contributed to this publication.

*Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by
the number of moments that take our breath away
-anonymous*



